Leave and Advance of Pay to Dewan Mr. M. E. Watts.

132. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Mr. M. E. Watts was given any advance of pay when he left for England, and, if so, the amount advanced;

(*b*) whether any money was given to him then for any other purpose, and, if so, how much and for what;

(*c*) whether he was entitled to get this amount according to the Service Regulations in force in Travancore;

(*d*) whether he went on leave, and, if so, the nature of the leave, and whether he was entitled to the same; and

(*e*) the authority for the disbursement of the amounts mentioned in parts (*a*) and (*b*) from the treasury?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. Three months' pay at Bh. Rs. 2,500 a month.

(*b*) Yes, Bh. Rs. 14,000—for the purchase of a State car.

(*c*) The Travancore Service Regulations do not apply to the Dewan, nor do they deal with the payment of advances to officers.

(*d*) Yes; the leave was special and was covered by special sanction.

(*e*) The Government.

Leader in the Malabar Advocate dated the 12th June 1926.

133. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to the passage "It is a notorious fact that, in the last reign, there was a Palace favourite who used to sell appointments and other forms of similar patronages to the highest bidder. Anybody—no matter whether well-qualified or ill-qualified—could get a job provided he was ready to pay for it", that appeared in the fourth column of the leader headed "Some Indian Dailies and Travancore Administration" in the "*Malabar Advocate*" of Saturday, the 12th June 1926, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the above passage, and, if so, when; and

(*b*) whether the Government have considered the question of taking action against that paper under Section 5, clause (*b*), of the Travancore Newspapers Regulation, V of 1101?

MR. KAYYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): (*a*) The attention of the Government was drawn to the passage shortly after its publication.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

License Fees for Newspapers.

134. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the newspapers that applied for license and the license fee imposed by the Government for each of them giving the difference in the fees?

MR. KAYYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A statement * containing the information is laid on the table.

* *Vide* Appendix V—pages 472 to 75.

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